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OCTOBER, 1963

PROTECTIVE PACKAGING FOR PARACARGO

Lib
Fire Control



BY
Equipment Development
& Testing Center
Missoula, Montana



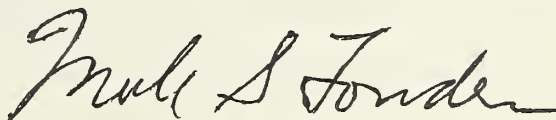
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IN REPLY REFER TO

February 1964

Guidelines for packaging and rigging paracargo as
described in ED&T Report No. 5700-6 are approved
for optional U.S. Forest Service use.



MERLE S. LOWDEN, Director
Division of Fire Control



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ABSTRACT

The purpose of Equipment Development and Testing Project No. 718, Protective Packaging for Paracargo, was to develop better methods of packaging supplies and equipment to be parachuted to firefighters.

Fiberboard was selected as having the most desirable qualities for containers. Honeycomb paper proved to be an effective and practical shock pad.

Instructions for packaging common Forest Service tools and supplies are included in this report.

The project was coordinated with ED&T 1113, Cargo Conveyors for DC-3 and C-46 Aircraft.

INTRODUCTION

A survey of paracargo operations in the Western Regions revealed these shortcomings in packaging firefighting tools and supplies:

1. Lack of standardization in packaging procedures.
2. Use of unduly expensive packaging materials.
3. Use of time consuming packaging techniques.
4. Frequent cargo damage due to insufficient protection.
5. Reduction of net payload caused by weight and bulk of packaging materials (wooden boxes).

This project was initiated to develop more efficient packaging materials and practices. The general objectives were:

1. Reduce the cost, size and weight of packages.
2. Increase parachute payloads with improved packaging and padding.
3. Investigate the feasibility of free-falling fire cargo, thus eliminating the problems of parachute delivery.

Because of the danger to ground personnel, development of free-drop packaging for fire tools was deferred. Efforts were concentrated on the first and second objectives, improved paracargo packaging.

Of the many cushioning materials investigated, honeycomb paper was judged best, being inexpensive, easily handled and highly shock absorbent.

Fiberboard proved to be the most effective container material. It is light, easily stored, inexpensive, versatile and easily handled. The Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, gave valuable assistance in selecting the proper fiberboard.

A project for developing roller conveyors (ED&T 1113) for loading and ejecting large cargo units from DC-3 and C-46 aircraft was undertaken. Coordination of the two projects resulted in a system for consolidating small packages into large, pallet-mounted units, to be loaded and dropped over roller conveyors.

The procedures described herein are intended as a general guide and may require modification to meet local needs and conditions. The scope of the project did not permit the development of packaging

procedures for all items commonly parachuted to firefighters. However, by following the examples illustrated, an effective packaging system may be devised for most items.

The usefulness of the methods covered in this report extends beyond packaging paracargo. Applied to other Forest Service warehousing or delivery operations, these methods can save manpower, material costs, storage space and can reduce damage.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The use of fiberboard boxes and honeycomb cushioning for packaging paracargo can:

1. Reduce cargo damage.
2. Increase net payload of aircraft.
3. Reduce costs of packaging materials.
4. Reduce space required for storage of empty containers.

Individual items consolidated onto pallets and dropped from aircraft over roller conveyors can reduce flying time over the drop zone by approximately one-third.

Supplies and equipment commonly parachuted to firefighters may readily be packaged with fiberboard cartons and paper honeycomb cushioning.

GUIDELINES FOR PACKAGING AND RIGGING PARACARGO

I. Materials for Protective Packaging

Fiberboard (incorrectly called cardboard) boxes and paper honeycomb cushioning are the two major packaging materials. These materials must be kept dry.

A. Fiberboard Boxes

Fiberboard boxes made of 500- or 600-pound double-wall (AB flute), corrugated fiberboard proved best for packaging paracargo.

Size, style and fiberboard strength must be specified when ordering boxes. Limiting the variety of boxes minimizes costs, reduces inventory and simplifies the rigging of paracargo.

Testing was done with two styles of boxes in six sizes. Most paracargo dropped in the Western Regions can be packaged in these boxes. Chart I (appendix) lists contents that were packaged in the various boxes.

Regular slotted-style (R.S.C.) boxes can be used for a special-purpose item. For example, one regular slotted box was ordered with special dimensions for chainsaws with 18-inch bars.

The full telescopic style (F.T.C.) is versatile because its volume can be varied by raising and lowering the top section. Telescopic boxes are stronger than regular slotted boxes.

The cost of double-wall boxes varied with size, style (full telescopic boxes are more expensive) and quantity ordered. The average price was \$1.75 per box for 470 boxes in six sizes and two styles. Double wall boxes are obtainable from most large manufacturers of fiberboard.

B. Paper Honeycomb

This material protects fragile items against impact. It is manufactured in both expanded and unexpanded form. Since special tools are required to expand the honeycomb, the expanded type should be ordered. Expanded honeycomb is usually available in sheets (approximately 10 feet by 4 feet) in any thickness. The 4-inch thickness is adequate and versatile.

Honeycomb cushioning should be ordered according to these specifications:

1. Cell Size (expressed in inches)
2. Paper Weight (expressed in pounds)
3. Impregnation (percent resin treatment)
4. Facings (available faced on one side, both sides, or unfaced)
5. Thickness (expressed in inches)

Soft, expanded, unfaced and untreated honeycomb proved best.
The type shown here was obtained from:

The Verticel Company
3800 South Kalamath
Englewood, Colorado

This honeycomb is designated as 3/8-inch cell size, 40-50-pound kraft paper, no (0) impregnation, unfaced.

Honeycomb costs approximately \$45 per thousand board feet.

C. Strapping Materials

Cargo can be lashed to honeycomb pads with many types of cord, strap or tape. Type 65 Avistrap, equipped with a simple locking buckle, is inexpensive and requires no special tools.
It was obtained from:

Avistrap Cord Strapping
American Viscose Corporation
1617 Pennsylvania Boulevard
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania

(See Missoula Equipment Development Center Equip Tip,
March 1962).

II. Tools and Equipment for Packaging

Fiberboard boxes are shipped "knocked down" and can be assembled using a bottom stapler or stitcher. Bostitch Model F-67 box-bottom stapler, fitted with a 9/16-inch staple head, adequately staples 500-pound, double-wall boxes. The foot powered model costs approximately \$180 and an electric one about \$300. An electric bottom stapler or stitcher is best for large warehousing and packaging operations.

III. Packaging Techniques and Instructions

A. Stapling Techniques

Prior to stapling, flex box flaps with and against the crease to reduce resistance against the first staples.

Figure 1 suggests a stapling pattern for regular slotted boxes which conserves staples, yet provides adequate strength.



Figure 1

Telescopic boxes have two halves, top and bottom. The manufacturer's stamp or label is found on the bottom half.

Figures 2 and 3 show how to correctly fold flaps for the top and bottom respectively.



Figure 2 (Top)

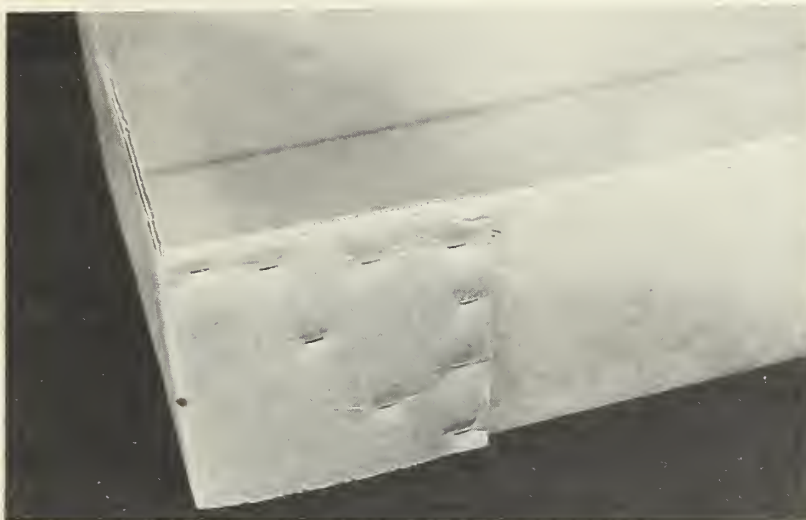


Figure 3
(Bottom)



Figure 4

If close tolerances make mating top and bottom difficult, expand the top section slightly.

B. General Packaging Guidelines

1. Select the proper size box.
2. Secure the contents of partially filled boxes with strapping (Figures 9 and 10), fiberboard partitions (Figure 10) or filling (Figure 14).
3. Protect power tools and fragile items.
 - a. Strap fragile or high-cost items to pads made of 1/4-inch plywood and honeycomb. (Figures 9 and 11.)
If honeycomb crushes completely on impact, cushion thickness is not adequate.
 - b. Use fiberboard partitions. In Figure 16, Coleman lanterns are protected with a fiberboard partition.
4. Put heavy, durable items on the bottom of the box.

C. Examples of Protective Packaging

The following photographs and instructions are intended only as a guide. Weights, contents, box sizes and style are given in Appendix I.

Packaging Instructions:

1. Sheathe cutting edges. A good sheath can be made from fiberboard.
2. Place five axes in box, cover with a full-size sheet of fiberboard, then place second five axes.
3. Approximately 20 axes can be packaged in this box.

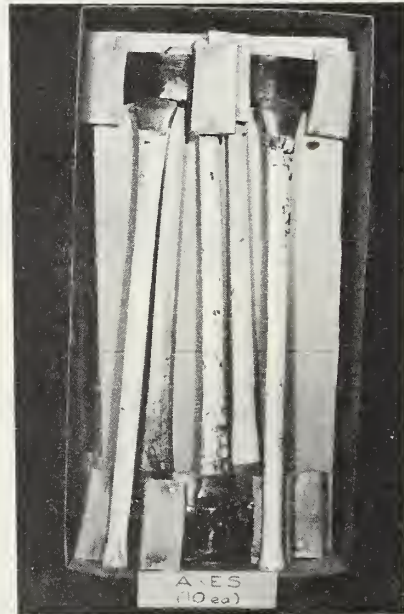


Figure 5
Axe Box

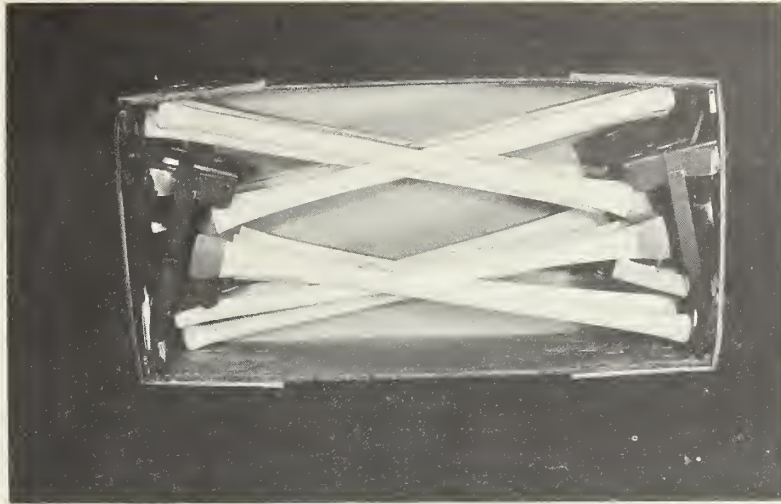


Figure 6
Pulaski Box

Packaging Instructions:

1. Sheathe all cutting edges. Place additional pieces of fiberboard on bottom of box underneath heads for additional protection and strength.
2. Place cutting edges to center.
3. Alternate the heads.

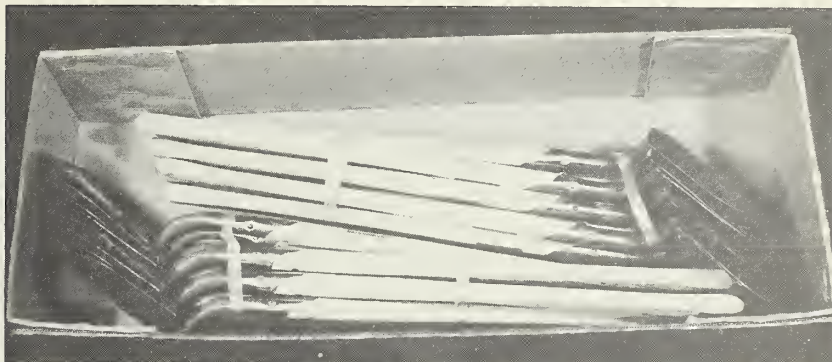


Figure 7
Shovel Box

Packaging Instructions:

1. Place additional pieces of fiberboard on bottom of box, underneath shovel heads.
2. Tape handles.
3. Place in box as shown in photograph.

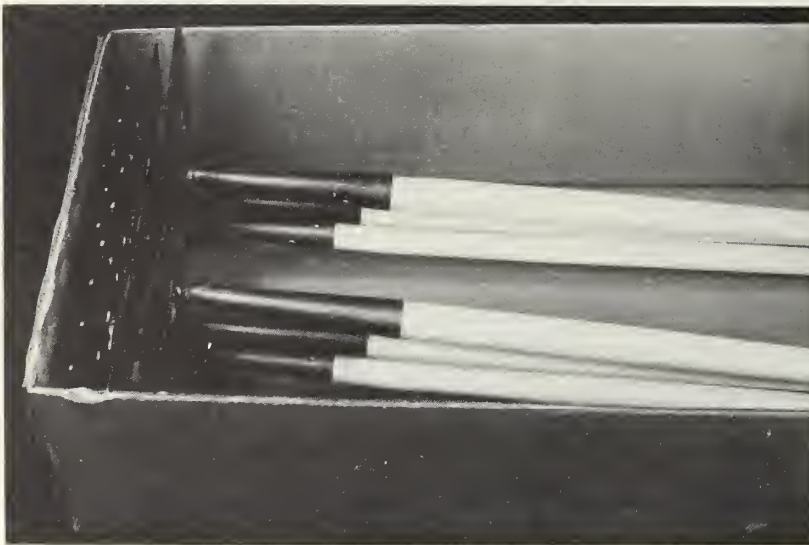


Figure 8
McCloud Tools

Packaging Instructions:

1. Place additional pieces of fiberboard on bottom of box, underneath tool heads.
2. Tool heads are placed at both ends of box; photograph shows how heads can be mated. Approximately 12 McCloud tools can be packaged in this manner. (See Appendix I.)

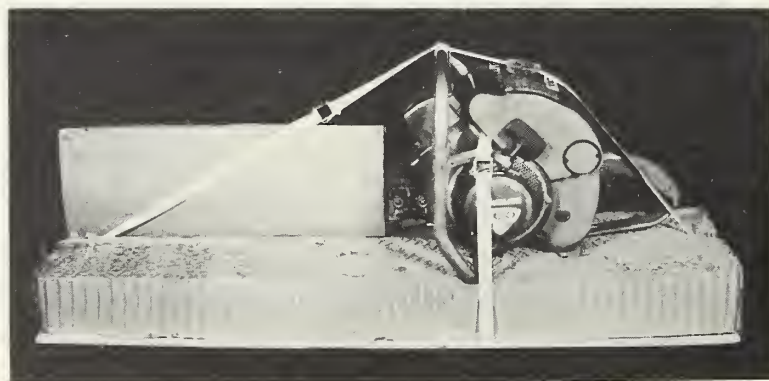


Figure 9
Chainsaw

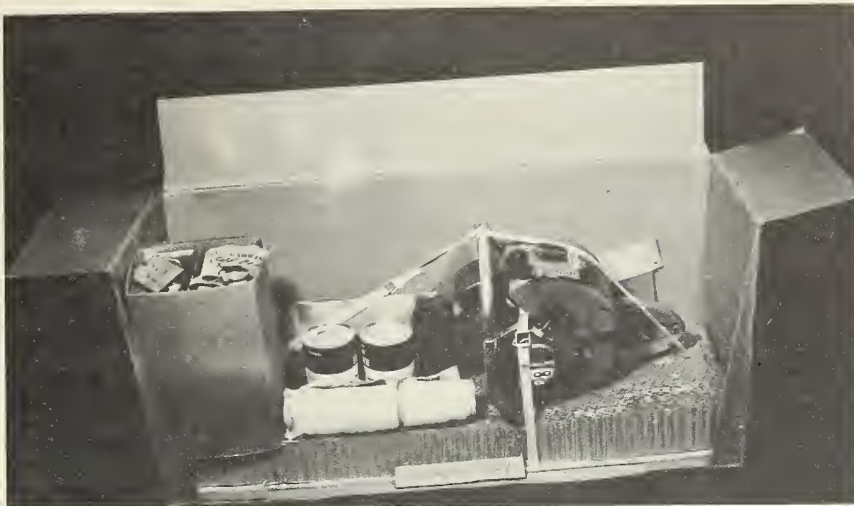


Figure 10
Chainsaw

Packaging Instructions:

1. Sheathe the bar with fiberboard.
2. Strap the saw to base of 4-inch honeycomb and 1/4-inch plywood.
3. Place saw unit in box. Fit in remaining contents so they are secure.
4. Protect gasoline with fiberboard partition. This partition should extend from the honeycomb to the top of the box, helping to secure the saw base.

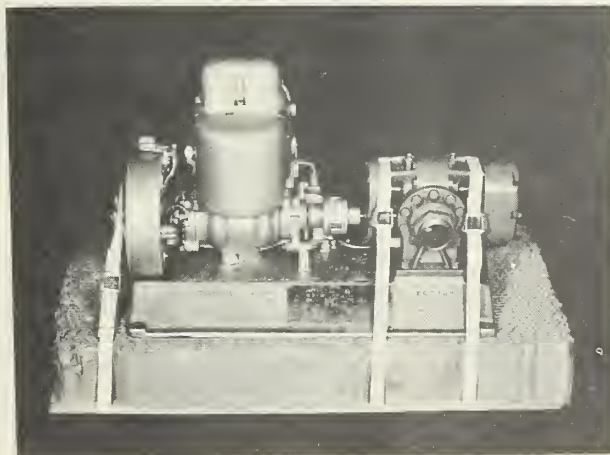


Figure 11
Pacific Pump (Type Y)

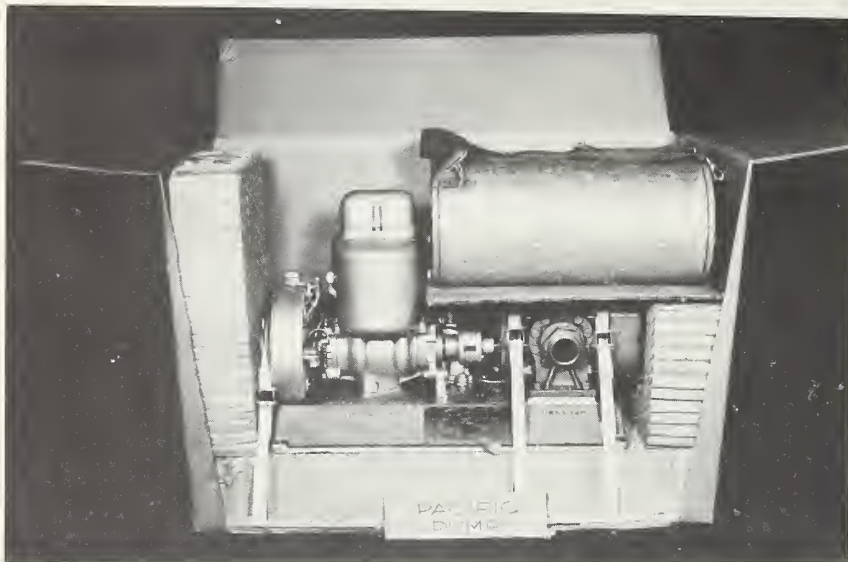


Figure 12
Pacific Pump (Type Y)

Packaging Instructions:

1. Strap pump to base of 4-inch honeycomb and 1/4-inch plywood.
2. Put pump unit in box and cushion ends with 4-inch honeycomb.
3. Place a piece of fiberboard over the pump section to protect the gas tank.

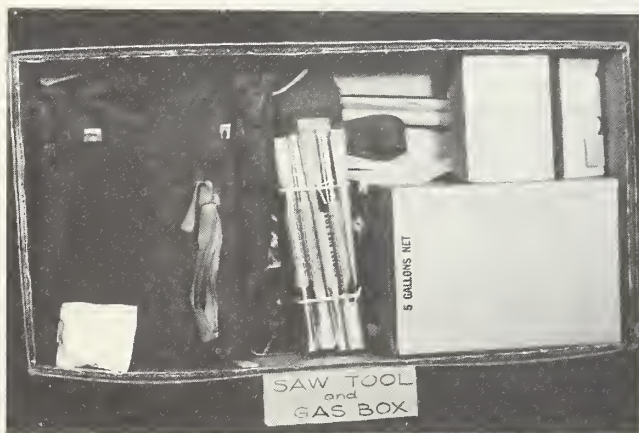


Figure 13
Saw Tool and Gas Box

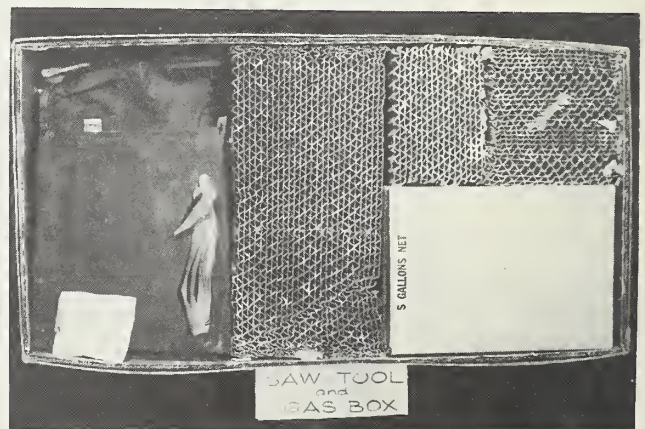


Figure 14
Saw Tool and Gas Box

Packaging Instructions:

1. No special arrangement. Follow general instructions.
2. Fill vacant spaces with honeycomb.

Packaging Instructions

1. No special arrangement. Follow general instructions.

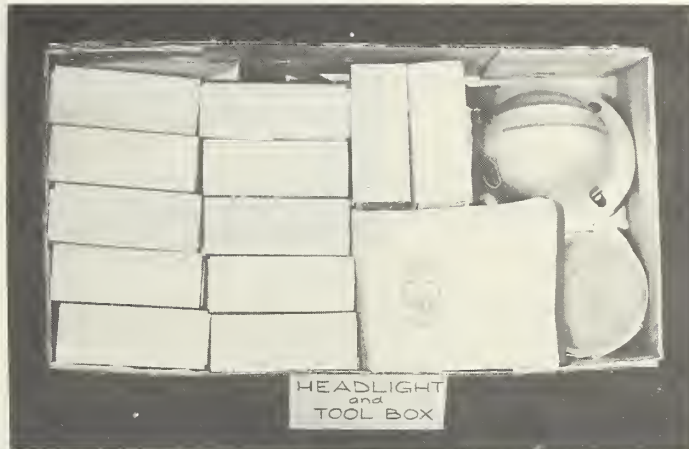


Figure 15
Headlight and Tool Box

Packaging Instructions:

1. Protect Coleman lanterns with fiberboard partitions.
2. Put remaining items in box.



Figure 16
Mess Box and Mess Boiler

Packaging
Instructions:

1. Place fly on bottom of box
2. Use full size fiberboard separator on top of fly.
3. Set stove unit on top.



Figure 17
Stove and Fly



Figure 18
Water Box

Packaging Instructions:

1. Place a 4-inch piece of honeycomb in bottom of box.
2. Water cans should be filled and wiped dry before placing in boxes.
3. Avoid spilling water on box. Make certain caps are on tight.

IV. Materials for Rigging Paracargo

A. Cargo Straps

Straps of cotton or nylon webbing having a tensile strength in excess of 2,900 pounds are used to sling the packages from the parachute. A quick-adjustable parachute harness lug sewn to the strap facilitates tightening (Drawing ED-242-R1).

The length and number of straps required for various packages and pallet units are included in Appendix I and II.

Color coding the ends of cargo straps simplifies the identification of their length. For example:

<u>Strap Length</u>	<u>Color</u>
6 feet	Blue
8 feet	Black
10 feet	Red
12 feet	Yellow
14 feet	Orange

Aerosol spray paints are good for color coding strap ends.

B. Cargo Strap Cross-Ties

On pallet units, cross-ties link the cargo straps for a single-point parachute attachment. Cross-ties are made from cotton or nylon webbing having a tensile strength in excess of 5,000 pounds (Drawing ED-242-R1). (Refer to Figures 24 and 28.)

C. Fiberboard Pallets

Fiberboard and honeycomb drop pallets are used with an aircraft roller conveyor system.

Two or more boxes are stacked on a pallet and strapped together to make a single unit. These pallets are usually dropped with two or three parachutes, depending on contents and weight.

Pallets are 28 inches square, approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick and have two-way entry for fork lifts. Pallets can be purchased or can be constructed according to Drawing No. ED-237-R1.

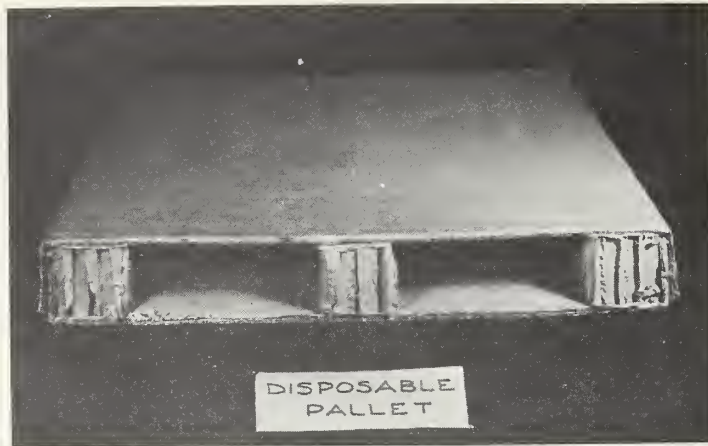


Figure 19

V. Guidelines for Rigging Individual Boxes

A. Cargo Strap Arrangements

One strap encircles the box lengthwise and a second encircles its width. It is designated as Arrangement I. (Figure 20.)



Figure 20

B. Parachute Requirements

One standard Forest Service 24- or 28-foot parachute is attached to the top of the box where the slings intersect.

Do not exceed a load of 160 pounds* for a 24-foot parachute.

* The standard recommended load for a 24-foot parachute is 144 pounds. This can be exceeded if the cargo is adequately protected.

VI. Guidelines for Rigging Pallet Units

A. Stacking Boxes

Guidelines for arranging boxes on a pallet are:

1. Use boxes similar in size and contents to make up a pallet, i.e., handtools with handtools, etc.
2. Put the largest and heaviest boxes on the bottom.
3. Boxes containing fragile items (unless they are well protected) should not be placed on the bottom.
4. Boxes should not exceed pallet width by more than 2 inches.
5. When possible, use telescopic style boxes on the bottom because they are stronger. However, consider size, contents, and weight first.
6. Total pallet weight, without parachutes, should not exceed 550 pounds.

B. Cargo Strap Arrangements

Place cargo straps to prevent loss of boxes on opening shock. Arrangement of boxes on a pallet will determine where to position the cargo straps.

1. Single stacking -- boxes are stacked as shown in Figures 21 and 22. For this type pallet unit, two straps encircle the width and two the length of the unit. Straps which run lengthwise are threaded through forklift entry slots. This strapping method is designated Arrangement II.

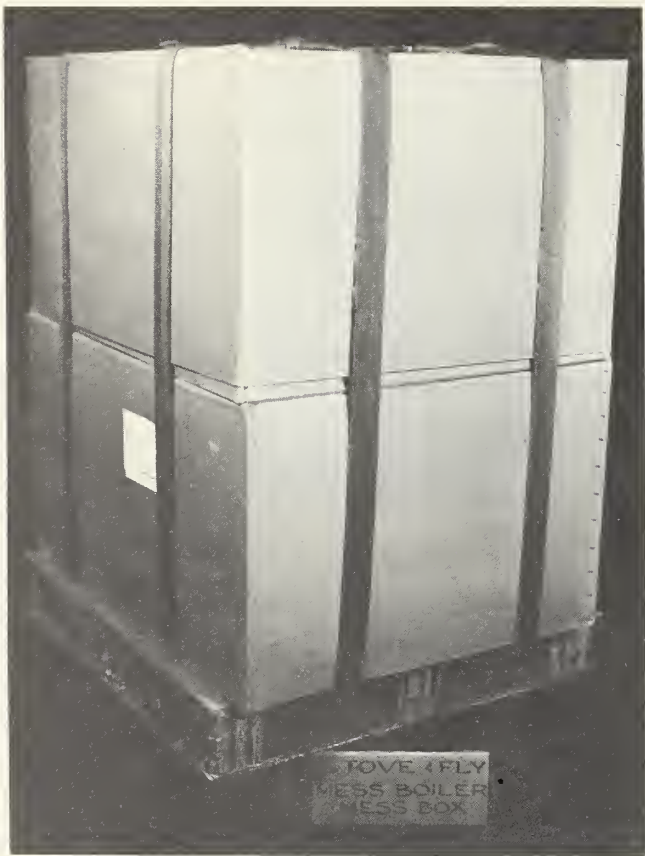


Figure 21



Figure 22

2. Two boxes side by side -- cargo strap Arrangement II is also used for pallets of this nature. Center the lengthwise straps on the center of the box ends as in Figure 23.



Figure 23

Figures 24 and 25 show the sling cross-ties for Arrangement II and how the parachutes are attached.

Figure 24



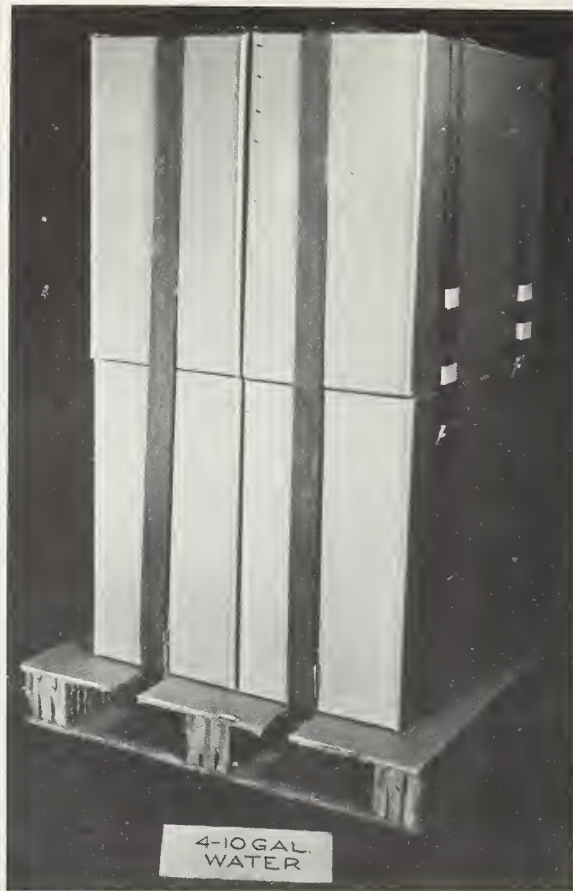
Figure 25



3. Double-row stacking -- cargo strap Arrangement II is again used. Straps should be centered on the box ends. (See Figure 26.)

Figure 26

Check straps for tightness before ejecting pallets. Loose straps could permit load to come apart on opening shock. Most webbing relaxes with changes in humidity and prolonged tension.

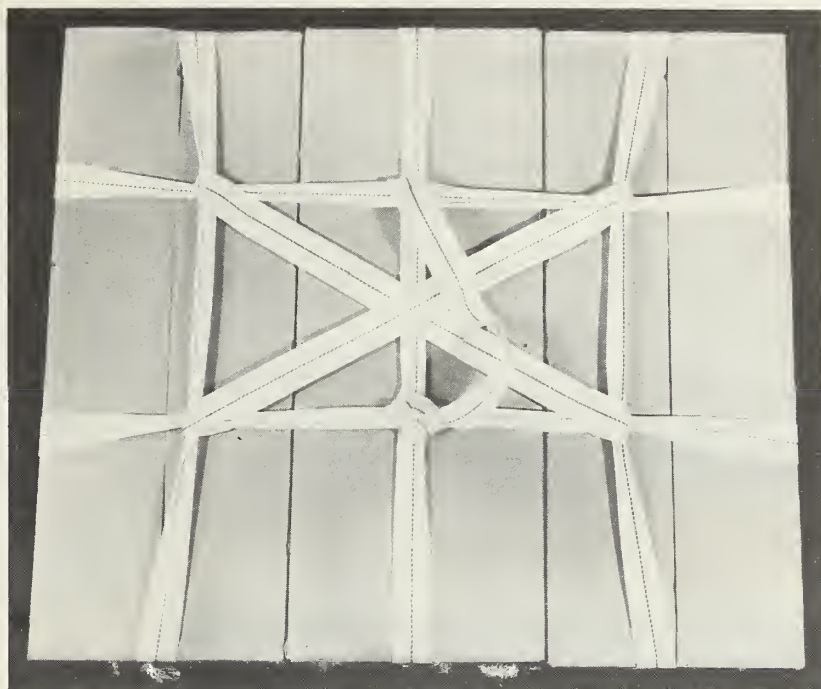


4. Three boxes side by side -- This pallet load requires an additional cargo strap to retain the box ends. This strap arrangement is designated Arrangement III. (Figure 27) Cargo strap cross-tie attachment is shown in Figure 28.



Figure 27

Figure 28



5. Triple-row stacking -- should it be necessary to stack three boxes abreast, use strap Arrangement III. Note: Cargo strap Arrangement III should be used for weights in excess of 360 pounds.

C. Cargo Parachute Modifications

The deployment system of the Forest Service cargo parachute must be modified for pallet units.

A pallet may be dropped with one, two or three parachutes, depending on weight or contents. When more than one is used, parachutes may be deployed by one static line with appendages (Figure 31) or separate static lines for each parachute (Figure 30). These static lines differ from conventional static lines because they are tied to the parachute apex with 1/4-inch break tape, rather than snapped to the customary ring. Also, the static lines are longer and are used with an overhead anchor cable.

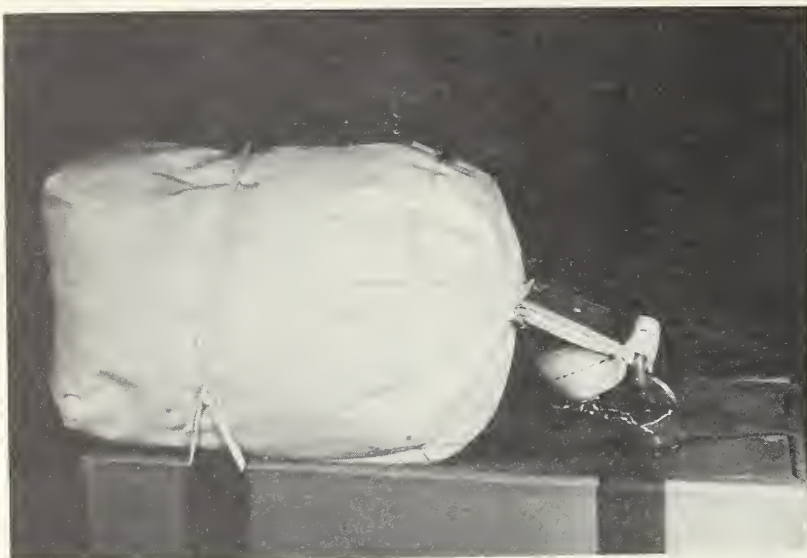


Figure 29

Tape securing parachute is threaded through static line.



Figure 30

1. Description of static lines. Type T-7A military cargo parachute static lines, or equivalent, can be used. (See Drawing No. ED-242-R1.)
2. Static line appendages. Short sections (about 18 inches long) of static line webbing can be knotted (bowline) to the main static line for deploying additional parachutes. A loop for attaching the parachute breakcord is also formed by a bowline, as shown in Figure 31.



Figure 31

Static line system
for two parachutes.

Two or three parachutes can be deployed by one static line with appendages.

3. Attaching static lines to cargo parachutes (see Figure 31). The end loop of the static line or appendage is tied to the parachute bridle cord with two continuous wraps of 1/4-inch (80-pound test) break tape. The bag is then closed with one strand of 8-cord, which passes through the end loop of the static line or appendage.

D. Parachute Requirements

The following guide specifies the number of parachutes to use with various cargo weights:

<u>Number of 24-foot Parachutes</u>	<u>Load</u>
1	Up to 180 pounds
2	180 to 360 pounds
3	360 to 540 pounds

These are maximum loads and should not be exceeded.

Note: The recommended load for a 24-foot parachute is 144 pounds. This may be increased to 160 pounds when the cargo is protectively packaged and 180 pounds when both protective packaging and a pallet are used.

E. Attaching Cargo Parachutes

Attach parachutes through the center of the sling cross-ties as shown in Figure 25. Then tie the parachutes to the top of the boxes with a strand of cord, not exceeding 100-pound test. The cord passes through a loop in the static line, which breaks the tie. (See Figures 29 and 30.)

APPENDIX I Packaging Guide

BOX NAME	BOX SIZE AND STYLE				CONTENTS (The following contents have been packaged in development work.)	HONEYCOMB	WEIGHT (Approx.)	STRAP LENGTHS	
	STYLE	(Inside Dimensions)						Length	Width
		L.	W.	D.					
Pulaski	F.T.C.	36"	18"	9"	Pulaskis (16 each) Axes (10 each) Headlight and tool box (25-man standard) Combined saw tool and gas box (25-man standard)	None None	93# 60#	10'	6'
*Shovel	F.T.C.	50"	18"	9"	Shovels (16 each) Eastern tool package	None None	60# 90#	12'	6'
Chainsaw	R.S.C.	41"	13"	19"	Chainsaw (18-inch bar)	4"	75# 68#	12'	6'
Pump	R.S.C.	30"	15"	21"	Pacific Pump (Type Y) Pacific Pump (Type 5A)	4" 4"	100# 95#	10'	6'
**Water	R.S.C.	29"	10½"	19"	3 - 5-gallon water cans 3 - hot food cans Pacific Pump accessories	4" 4" None	130# Variable 65#	10'	6'
Utility	F.T.C.	30"	24"	16"	Combined mess box and boiler (25-man standard) Stove and fly unit (25-man supplemental) Combined mess boiler and safety hat package (25-man supplemental)	None None None	150# 106# 110#	10'	8'

* Shovels and McCloud tools can be packaged in the same box if box length is increased to 55 inches.

** If 5-gallon plastic water bottles are used in place of 5-gallon cans, box should have following inside dimensions:

$\frac{L}{36"} \quad \frac{W}{12"} \quad \frac{D}{16"}$

SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET - APPENDIX I

Tools (Hand)

Axe Box

Contents:

10 each axes, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound, D.B.

Pulaski Box

Contents:

16 each Pulaski Tools

Shovel Box

Contents:

16 each shovels, size No. 0

Saw Tool and Gas Box

Contents:

2 each cases, wedge, canvas	6 each handles, file
2 each hammers, S.J., 4-pound	4 each handles, e.c. saw
12 each files, 8-inch, M.B.	2 each wedges, felling, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound
72 each batteries, flashlight	1 each wedge, felling, 4-pound
12 each fusees, backfiring	2 gals. gasoline, lantern
4 each sacks, pack	1 each kit, timekeeper's, complete
6 each stones, axe	

Headlight and Tool Box

Contents:

6 each bags, water, 2-gallon	1 each kit, medicine, R-1 standard
4 each bags, water, 5-gallon, m.p.	1 each packet, medicine, 1-man
2 each canteens, water, 2-quart	1 each padlock, common, with chain
3 each hats, safety, hard	1 pair pliers, common, 6-inch
12 each headseats, flashlight	2 each pumps, hand, spray
1 each screwdriver, 6-inch	4 pkgs. towels, paper, 250 each, folding, with dispensers

Tools (Power)

Chainsaw Box

Contents:

1 each chainsaw (18-inch bar)	1 each fire extinguisher
1 each axe, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -pound, s.b.	1 each tool kit
2 each wedges, felling	2 quarts oil
1 each pack frame	2 gals. gasoline

Tools (Power)

Pacific Pump Box

Contents:

- 1 each Pacific Pump, Type Y
- 1 each 5-gallon gas tank

Camp Equipment

Mess Boiler and Mess Box

Contents:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 50 each bags, cellophane | 2 each pails, coffee, half-oval, with lid |
| 1 each boiler, 25-man, w/lid | 1 each pail, cooking, 6-quart with lid |
| 30 each bowls, soup, tin | 1 each pail, cooking, 13-quart with lid |
| 1 each box, tin, knife and fork | 2 each pans, bread, large and small |
| 1 each brush, pastry | 4 each pans, 3-quart, enamel |
| 6 each chains, kettle, 3-foot | 12 each pans, dishup, 3-quart, tin |
| 1 each clock, alarm | 30 each plates, pie, tin, 9-inch |
| 30 each cups, tin, miner's | 30 each sacks, cloth, 10-pound |
| 2 each files, 8-inch, m.b. | 6 bars soap, hand |
| 1 each fork, meat | 6 pkgs. soap, detergent, 6-ounce |
| 30 each forks, dinner | 2 each spoons, stirring |
| 2 each knives, butcher | 12 each spoons, table |
| 2 each knives, paring | 30 each spoons, dessert |
| 30 each knives, dinner | 1 each stone, scythe |
| 2 each lifters, pot | 1 each turner, hotcake |
| 1 can lye, 13-ounce | 15 each towels, dish |
| 1 each masher, potato | 1 each whip, egg |
| 1 can matches, safety, 4 boxes | |
| 4 lbs. nails, 20 and 40 D common | |
| 2 each openers, can, hand-operated | |

Mess Box, 25-Man Standard

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 each bar, mosquito | 2 each lanterns, gas, 2-burner |
| 4 each basins, wash | 24 each mantles, lantern |
| 1 each brush, scrub | 1 each pan, dish, 21-quart |
| 4 each buckets, canvas, folding | 2 each pans, fry |
| 3 each cleaners, pot | 1 each saw, meat, complete |
| 2 each funnels, Coleman #0 | 2 rolls tissue, toilet |
| 3 each generators, lantern | 25 each towels, hand |
| 1 each hammer, claw | 1 each wrench, lantern |

Stove and Fly Box

Contents:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 each stove, Kimmel, complete | 1 each fly, canvas, 14' x 16' |
| 1 each pan, drip, oven size | 2 each pans, half-oven size |

APPENDIX II

Guide for Palletizing

UNIT NUMBER	PALLET COMPONENTS	CARGO STRAPS (No. required and length)	
		Length	Width
1	4 - Boxes (36" x 18" x 9")	2 ea. - 14'	2 ea. - 10'
2	4 - Boxes (50" x 18" x 9")	(splice) 2 ea. - 8' 2 ea. - 16'	2 ea. - 10'
3	2 - Boxes (30" x 24" x 16")	2 ea. - 12'	2 ea. - 10'
4	4 - Boxes (29" x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 19")	2 ea. - 12'	2 ea. - 10'
5	2 - Boxes (50" x 18" x 9") 1 - Box (36" x 18" x 9")	2 ea. - 14'	2 ea. - 10'

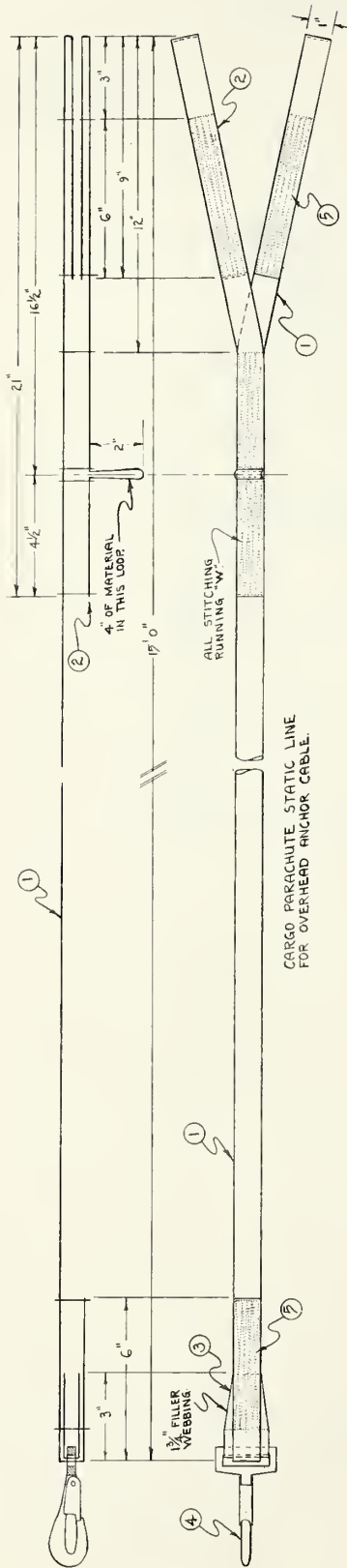
Note: Many other pallet combinations are possible; these are only examples.

APPENDIX III

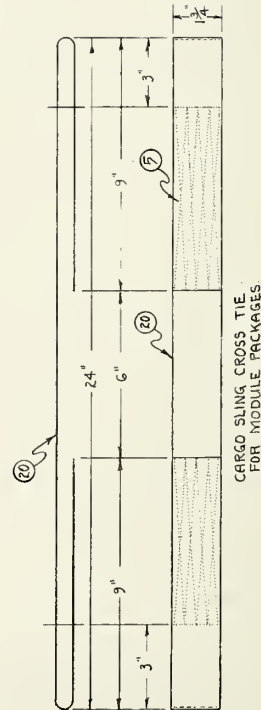
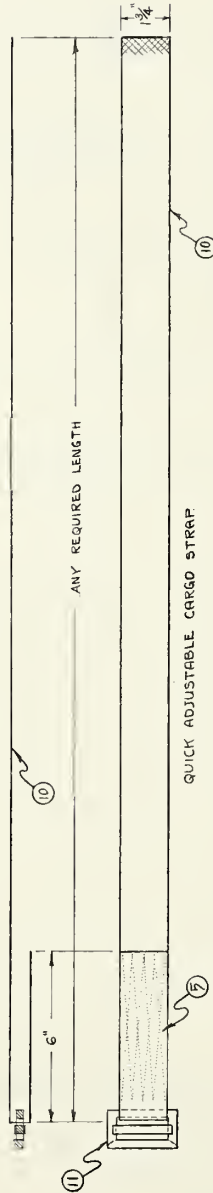
Guideline for Cargo Strap Arrangements

Number of Boxes	Single Stacking	Side by Side	Double Row Stacking
1	I	-	-
2	II	II	-
3	II	III	-
4	II	-	II

Note: Use cargo strap Arrangement III for loads in excess of 360 pounds.



NOTE.
TREAT ALL ENDS OF WEBBING
TO PREVENT FRAYING.
ALL STITCHING RUNNING "W".



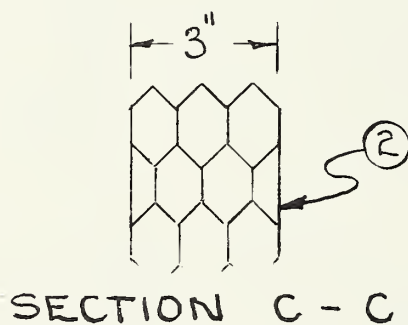
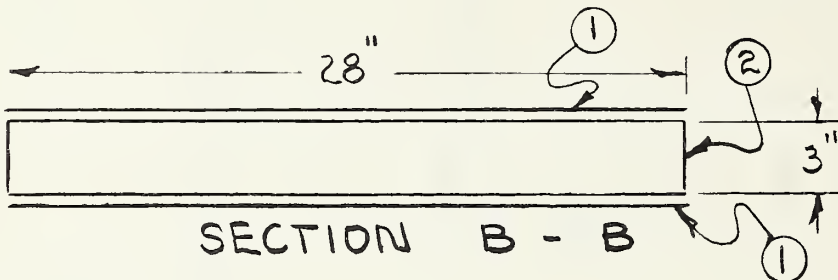
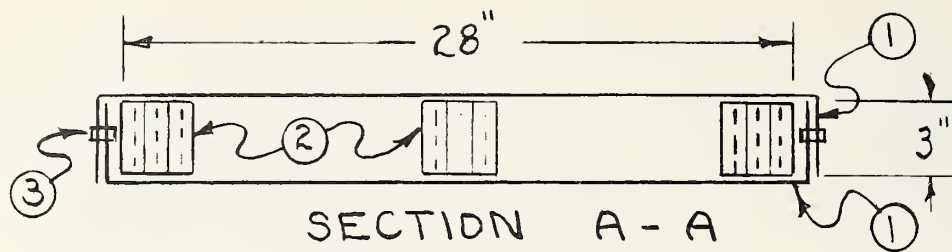
DATE	REVISION	BY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER		
RIGGING ACCESSORIES FOR CARGO PARACHUTES		
PROJECT NO.	DATE	BY
ED-242-R1	AUG 10, 1962	

MATERIALS LIST

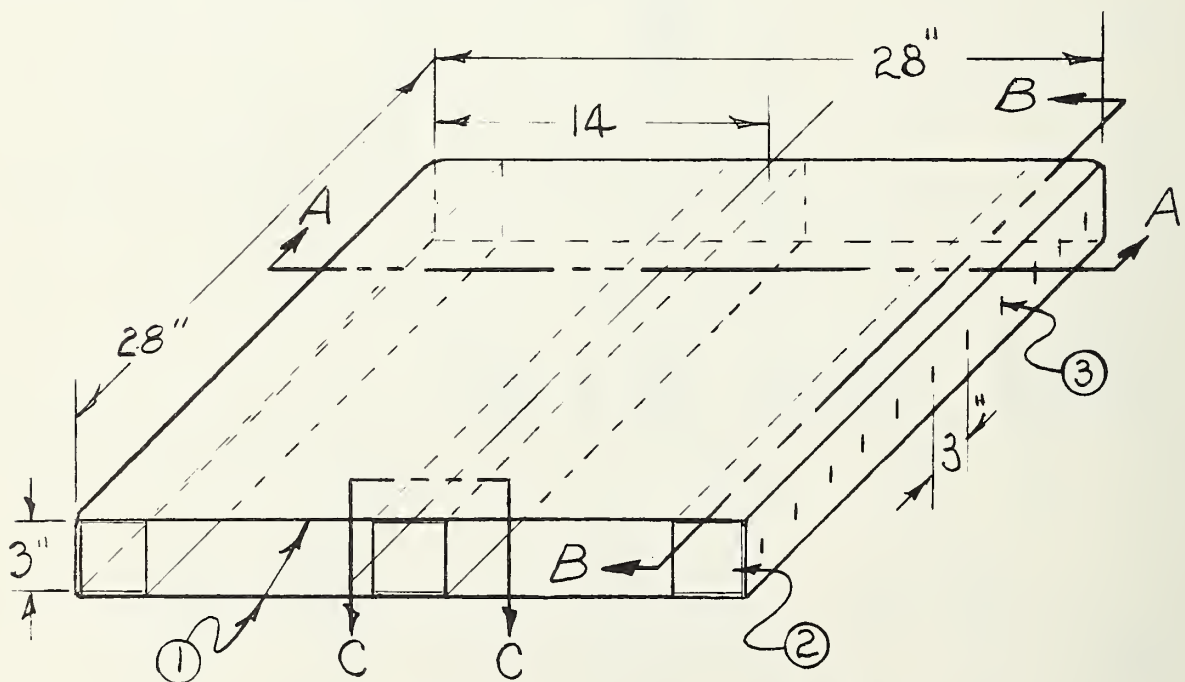
- RIGGING ACCESSORIES FOR CARGO PARACHUTES

DRAWING NO. ED-242-R1

[illegible]



NOTE:
STAPLE
PARTS NO. 1
TOGETHER. GLUE
PARTS NO. 2 IN
POSITION SHOWN.



MATERIALS LIST - PALLET, DISPOSABLE

Drawing No. ED-237-R1

[illegible]

